

I WASN'T BORN A BOYS' BRIGADE LEADER

THE ZIMBABWE BOYS BRIGADE

HERE'S IS THE STORY OF MY LIFE IN ZIMBABWE BOYS BRIGADE AND HOW I JOIN BB ZIM IN JANUARY 2003 WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SEVEN AT BUDIRO 2 PRIMARY SCHOOL.

I've been in The Boys' Brigade for almost twenty-one years since January 2003. If I had done research on Boys Brigade, I wouldn't have gone through utter culture shock when I discovered that BB was a nightmare for an absolute introvert like me. To start off, I was an extremely shy person in nature because I didn't want to stand in front of people and hence I struggled with severe social anxiety which also

BB Object Is: The Advancement Of Christ's Kingdom Among Boy's And The Promotion Of Habits Of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Motto: Sure and Stedfast (Heb 6:19)

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affected my self-esteem. Not only that, I had an overly pessimistic outlook on life and always thought the worst of myself.

My memory of that day in 2003 when I was in grade seven (7) is still vivid in my mind. On that day, I had a fateful encounter with the seniors from Boys Brigade

that convinced me to join the BB without giving much thought. I enrolled into the Boys Brigade. By that period of time I knew it was God's calling for me to work with Boys'.

I was terrified and uncomfortable that Boys Brigade

challenged my shy self.

However, I thought to myself, "Why not give it a try and see how it goes? I might as well make the best of the situation and have fun in BB." So I started taking part in Boys Brigade

related activities as time passed. Throughout the twenty-one years (21) in BB, I learned many skills such as wildlife, map reading, craft work, expeditions, climbing mountains, hunting, canoeing, travelling and cooking which I'm still terrible at. Without realizing it, I was also equipping myself with

To sum up, I have learned much throughout my days in Boys' Brigade and our adventures. I have made amazing friendships along the way. I learned to be a leader by building up my confidence little by little through the fun activities. Boy's Brigade also helped me to embrace God and that allowed me to discover the purpose of my life. However, the most prominent lesson I have learned is that in Boy's Brigade we need to seize the opportunity to grow because we never know when it might lead to something good.



**The Zimbabwe Boys'
Brigade National
Training Convener
Sir S Gwata**

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leadership skills through the activities. Before I was in BB I was just a follower and never a leader because being a leader seemed like a daunting task as it equipped me to make to make decisions that might result in unintentional outcomes of which I was terrified. But being in The Boys Brigade Zimbabwe soon molded me into a leader. Initially, I was reluctant to initiate conversations with others but my social skills got better over time as I involved myself more in our meetings. Due to this, I have made friends with many people like **Cpt Fiona Botes, Sir Joseph Dube, BB President Sir G Chinyani, BB VP Barson the Comrade and my Training Officer Sir Joseph Munemo** who consequently

helped me find my footing as a leader.

In 2018 we held a meeting at coin security in Belvedere where I was elected and nominated as field training officer in Boys Brigade. But that responsibility weighed heavily on my shoulders especially because I was burdened with self-doubt. It was hard at first, having to learn what to teach the boys from scratch. I appreciate the kindness, friendship and support. However, our Bible study sessions allowed me to ask any questions I had because of the open-minded teachers. For that, I am so grateful for their paving the way and guiding my peers and me to understand and become faithful Christian. While change didn't

happen to me overnight, every step that I took along the way led to an awakening! Hence I become who I am today. While I've come a long way, it is also inspiring to witness my Boys Brigade peers blossoming into the wonderful individuals they're today. I couldn't have achieved this much without the support of my parents because they're the ones who first motivate me and support financially. Although they were initially. They hesitant to let me join Boys' Brigade, they are now thankful for the guidance and tireless effort on me.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all Boy's and Girl's to have enthusiastically and enroll into the Boys' and Girl's Brigade.

The Boys' Brigade was **founded in Glasgow on 4th October 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith**. From this one Company formed in Scotland the BB has grown in to a worldwide movement having worked with millions of children and young people for well over a century.

The Boys' Brigade Mission statement is to: **Engage children & young people**. Support volunteer leaders. Partner church and communities.

The Object Of The Boys' Brigade is: **"The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."**

Who can join the Boys Brigade?

The Boys' Brigade is open to **children and young people aged from 5 to 18, of any faith and background**. Whilst some groups are for boys only others are open to boys and girls through membership of The Girls' Association

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